

Brashear City, Louisiana, Mar 10th 1863

Dear Mother,

I rec'd your very kind letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> of last month about a week ago and was very glad to hear from you. I should answered it before but I have not been feeling very well for a week past. You need not think that I am sick for I am not. I have been troubled with a bad *diarear* for a spell but am getting better, there is a great many troubled in the same way now, it's the effects of the bad *watter* we have to use the water we have to use have ~~generly~~ *generaly* is rain *watter*, It is very good and healthy, it is different from the rain *watter* north, the tanks that it is caught in makes it a great deal better but there has been a spell of dry weather *and the* and the tanks have all run dry so we have to drink the *watter* from the Bay which is very muddy and bad, we hope it will rain in a few days so as to fill up the tanks. The next day after I got your letter we received the box you sent so long ago. I wish you could have seen it, it was most all spoilt the can of butter you put in melted and run all over everything, Harrison's shirts were daubed all over with grease but was not spoilt, the preserves were not hurt the dried apples & tobacco were all right, we got enough to get a *tast* of home. Harrison is out stewing some of the apples for supper now, the boys have been building a large brick oven to day & the cooks are baking biscuit for supper. I don't expect they will be as good as [blur] they would be if they were made at home and we were there to eat them, but I guess we can eat them under the circumstances. We draw flour now instead of bread.

Yesterday we had the pleasure of seeing some Leonardsville boys that are in the 176<sup>th</sup> Regt. they were Hank Button, Ben Bates, Dan Reynolds, Tom Hewey and a number of boys from Brookfield. It looked like home to see Button around, he makes a first rate soldier and likes it very well ~~the~~ he can't get no whiskey here he says he has not had any since he left New York.

Uncle Sam had a letter from John Wheeler yesterday, he talks as if he thought the war would close in the course of two or three months, well I don't know but it will I hope so, but I can't see anything that ~~look~~ that looks that way now in this country at present, we are still lying *idol* yet doing nothing but drills, if they do anything here this spring it has got to be done soon or ~~it~~ they can't do it at all till fall. I had rather do my part now and go home than to stay here through the summer. We have not been paid off yet but expect to get it in a few days, have you got the checks that we sent?

Uncle Sam sends his best Respects to you and father, give my love to all.

From your Affect. Son,  
J. F. Brand